Free schooling materials to downtrodden children

†190. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has formulated a scheme to provide free uniform, shoes, stationery, etc. to all the children belonging to the downtrodden, from class I to VIII;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for not implementing the above scheme, so far; and

(d) the year-wise amount of money likely to be expended on the above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) Under the Framework for implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) there is only a provision to supply free textbooks to all children, as this is a direct educational incentive. Under National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary Level (NPEGEL), which is a focussed intervention for promotion of girls education under the SSA programme, States have flexible funds to provide items like uniform and other incentives to girls in order to meet local specific requirements.

Wastage of foodgrains meant for mid-day meals

191. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has collected any data on the foodgrains meant for mid-day meals for school children all over the country, which is going waste by way of transportation, pilferage, etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the children are being served lesser food and fewer calories than they require, thereby wasting huge amount of revenue; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) As per the allocation made by the Central Government, the FCI supplies foodgrain directly to the States/UTs. As and when, any complaint, relating to pilferage/diversion of foodgrain, serving of lesser food/fewer calories etc., is brought to the notice of the Government, the concerned State Government/UT Administration is asked to conduct suitable enquiry, take suitable action against the responsible person and initiate corrective measures to avoid recurrence of such incidents. A statement indicating details and action taken on such cases is enclosed.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.